Community Members Honored at the University of Utah Alumni Association’s Spring Awards Banquet

April 17, 2008, Salt Lake City – The University of Utah Alumni Association and its Young Alumni Board recognized three outstanding community members during the annual Spring Awards Banquet on Thursday, April 17, at Rice-Eccles Stadium. The Young Alumni Board, composed of alumni who graduated from the University of Utah within the past 15 years, selected this year’s Par Excellence Award recipient, Neil H. Ashdown, Ph.D., chief of staff to Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. This award is presented each year to an outstanding young alumnus/a based on his or her personal and professional achievements and service to the University and the community.

Lynette Danley, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the College of Education and Ethnic Studies Program at the University of Utah, was recognized with this year’s Community Service Award.

Bryan Eldredge, associate director in the Masters Program and Services Department at the University’s David Eccles School of Business, is this year’s recipient of the Philip and Miriam Perlman Excellence in Counseling Award.

About the Recipients

PAR EXCELLENCE AWARD
Neil H. Ashdown, Chief of Staff to Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.

Neil H. Ashdown has an impressive public service record for the State of Utah. He is currently chief of staff to Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., and previously served as Gov. Huntsman’s deputy chief of staff, responsible for the governor’s policy agenda. He has also held positions as deputy director of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget and as the chief economist to former
governors Olene Walker and Michael O. Leavitt. Ashdown is a former president of the Wasatch Front Economic Forum and the Utah Chapter of the National Association of Business Economics. A graduate of the University of Utah, with a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in public administration, Ashdown received his doctorate in political science with a focus on international political economy, public policy, and administration from the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the State University of New York in Albany.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Lynette Danley, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy, College of Education

Lynette Danley received her doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies (with honors) from Iowa State University. Her research interests include the exploration of academic and social experiences of women and underrepresented groups in higher education. Danley works with prospective and continuing college students as a youth council mentor at both Calvary Baptist Church and New Pilgrim Church in Salt Lake City, and founded the Black Butterflies program, which empowers young African American women in the Salt Lake City school district to be proactive in their education and academic endeavors.

PHILIP AND MILDRED PERLMAN FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT COUNSELING

Bryan Eldredge, Associate Director, Masters Program and Services, David Eccles School of Business

Bryan Eldredge received her bachelor’s in history at the University of Utah. She also holds a Degré Supérieur from the Université Bordeaux-Toulouse. As associate director of the Master’s Program and Services at the University’s David Eccles School of Business, Eldredge has been involved in the development of a variety of initiatives for business students including managing the school’s SMART Start mentoring program, Board Fellows program, organizing Case Competition teams, and arranging company visits to assist students in their professional development.

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